



PLEASE! Help us protect your dues dollars...RSVP either way (if you can or cannot attend) to Kris Fessenden at NEA-NH 603-715-9309 or [kfessenden@nhnea.org](mailto:kfessenden@nhnea.org) by January 6, 2020.

NEA-NEW HAMPSHIRE  
WESTERN REGION COUNCIL MEETING  
AND

**NEA-NH Budget Hearing**

MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2020 4:30 TO 7:00 PM

**\*\*Lui Lui's, 8 Glen Rd. W. Lebanon, NH\*\***

***2019-20 Council Meeting Dates: March 23, May 11 @ Lui Lui's (unless otherwise noted) 4:30 Dinner, 5:00 Meeting***

We hope you will attend the January Council Meeting. It's important to have your local association represented. If you cannot attend, please send another member. Your association members deserve to benefit from the affiliation and have a voice in decision-making.

Those of you who are delegates will receive a separate invite/packet regarding the budget hearing from NEA NH. RSVP to me if you plan to attend both, or just the council meeting by January 6.

• AGENDA:

- 4:30 PM Dinner, Quick Council Meeting
- 5:00 NEA-NH Budget Hearing

**SEA CY/PY Membership Counts by Local**  
**NEA-NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Local Affiliate	Type Distribution	CY	PY	Change
CLAREMONT AMTE (UniServ)	Type Distribution	14	13	1
CLAREMONT ASSOCIATION OF SECRETARIES (UniServ)	Type Distribution	11	10	1
CORNISH EA (UniServ)	Type Distribution	13	13	0
FALL MOUNTAIN TA (UniServ)	Type Distribution	140	139	1
FALL MTN REG SS (UniServ)	Type Distribution	36	47	-11
FRANKLIN E A (UniServ)	Type Distribution	71	82	-11
GRANTHAM EA (UniServ)	Type Distribution	38	36	2
HANOVER EA (UniServ)	Type Distribution	152	148	4
HANOVER SUPP STAFF (UniServ)	Type Distribution	37	34	3
LEBANON E A (UniServ)	Type Distribution	162	152	10
LEBANON SS (UniServ)	Type Distribution	63	61	2
LEMPSTER EA (UniServ)	Type Distribution	7	10	-3
LEMPSTER EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION (UniServ)	Type Distribution	10	7	3
LYME EA (UniServ)	Type Distribution	26	25	1
MASCOMA VALL EA (UniServ)	Type Distribution	108	109	-1
MASCOMA VALL REG SS (UniServ)	Type Distribution	35	36	-1
NEWPORT SUPPORT STAFF ASSN (UniServ)	Type Distribution	47	37	10
NEWPORT TA (UniServ)	Type Distribution	82	83	-1
PARA EDUCATORS AT KEARSARGE (UniServ)	Type Distribution	16	15	1
PLAINFIELD EA (UniServ)	Type Distribution	14	18	-4
PLAINFIELD SUPPORT STAFF ASSN (UniServ)	Type Distribution	9	9	0
SUGAR RIVER EA (UniServ)	Type Distribution	145	154	-9
SUNAPEE TA (UniServ)	Type Distribution	38	40	-2
UNITY EA (UniServ)	Type Distribution	1	2	-1
<b>Total:</b>		<b>1,275</b>	<b>1,281</b>	<b>-5</b>

*Kearsarge*

131 127 + 4



## UniServ Director's Report – January 2020

### Membership Update

The following locals have increased their membership over the last fiscal year:

▲ 6%	Claremont Maintenance:	14/71 – 82%
▲ 8%	Claremont Secretaries:	11/14 – 79%
▲ 1%	Fall Mountain Teachers:	140/161 – 87%
▲ 5%	Grantham EA:	38/46 – 83%
▲ 2%	Hanover EA:	152/206 – 74%
▲ 3%	Hanover SSA:	37/95 – 39%
▲ 2%	Kearsarge Regional EA:	131/205 – 64%
▲ 5%	Lebanon EA:	162/198 – 82%
▲ 2%	Lebanon SSA:	63/117 – 54%
▲ 30%	Lempster SSA:	10/10 – 100%
▲ 4%	Lyme EA:	26/26 – 100%
▲ 15%	Newport SSA:	47/64 – 73%
▲ 2%	Para Educators at Kearsarge:	16/78 – 21%

### Negotiations Update

**Claremont Secretaries:** Ratified by the Association and the Board

**Claremont Maintenance and Transportation Employees:** Ratified by the Association and the Board

**Franklin:** Agreement reached, awaiting ratification by the Association and the City Council

**Lebanon SS:** Ratified by the Association and the Board

**Lyme EA:** Nearly complete, likely to reach agreement this week

**Mascoma EA:** Ratified by the Association and the Board

**Newport SS:** Ratified by the Association and the Board

**Paras Educators At Kearsarge:** Ratified by the Association and the Board

**Sugar River EA:** Ratified by the Association and the Board

### Campaigns

The deadline for requesting MOM grants has passed. If something has come up that necessitates a campaign and you didn't apply for a MOM grant, please contact me as soon as possible.

MOM Grant Recipients: You should be receiving an email from George Strout today that explains how the funding works, how to get voter checklists from your town halls, and other important information.

**Fall Mountain TA and ESSA:** For a campaign to stop the withdrawal of Charlestown from the school district

**Kearsarge REA:** To assist in getting voters to the deliberative session and to pass the budget in March

**Lyme EA:** For positive press to assistance in passing their CBA

**Mascoma EA:** To pass their CBA

**Sugar River EA:** To get out voters to the deliberative session to stop any major cuts, and to pass the district budget, which includes their CBA

**Sunapee TA:** To assist in passing the warrant for a new elementary school

**If you, or someone you know, lives in one of these communities, please consider helping and be sure to VOTE!**

## Reasons to Celebrate!

All SB2 contracts were negotiated and ratified in advance of the January 14<sup>th</sup> budget deadline! Local associations negotiated insurance changes that puts money in employee pockets, substantial salary and wage increases in areas that have been deeply impacted by budget cuts and status quo contracts, and language changes that help to balance the power between labor and management. Bargaining teams worked incredibly hard, fought for the interests of their members, and advocated for increases in wages and working conditions that benefit everyone. Well done bargaining teams!

## Contract Language:

### Limiting evening events:

I often hear that elementary schools are overloading staff with afterschool/evening events that are beyond the typical job description. You can always try impact bargaining over these if it is a change in working conditions. Several locals have CBA language to address it specifically.

**Franklin EA: Article 7.4A:** "...As part of their professional responsibilities, teachers shall work three (3) evenings per school year for mandatory functions. Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent teachers from working at other evening events on a voluntary basis. Lack of participation in such voluntary evening events shall not be used for evaluative purposes."

### Providing schedules to high school staff in advance of the start of school:

**SREA: Article 8.8:** "Except in unusual circumstances, teachers will be notified of their teaching assignments at their summer address by the principal as soon as practicable but not less than thirty (30) days prior to the opening of classes for the ensuing year."

### Receiving information:

Work to ensure that the Association is given a seniority list, bargaining unit list, and other relevant hiring information by the end of September.

#### **Lebanon Support Staff:**

**Article 6:** "...A copy of the list shall also be provided to the Association President. Failure to provide the list to the Association President shall not be grievable, nor shall it impact the validity of such list. The Association shall review the list and bring to the Board's attention any errors therein or omission therefrom within thirty (30) days of receipt."

**Article 13:** "...The Superintendent shall make the determination of relevant experience for each new employee and will provide this information and step schedule placement to the current president of the LSS by September 30<sup>th</sup> and upon reasonable request by the LSS President."

## Did you know?:

Lawmakers again rejected a \$46M federal grant for NH charter schools:

"The money was intended to nearly double New Hampshire's charter schools, from 28 currently to 55. Construction of new schools would occur over five years, with a maximum \$1.5 million per charter, the Department of Education said. Lawmakers said that could mean tens of millions in additional costs to the state over 10 years, pointing to an analysis by the nonprofit group Reaching Higher New Hampshire. Department of Education Commissioner Frankl Edelblut disputed those estimates."

[https://www.vnews.com/Democrats-reject-\\$10-1-million-in-federal-charter-school-funds-31312483](https://www.vnews.com/Democrats-reject-$10-1-million-in-federal-charter-school-funds-31312483)

## Labor News:

Florida Education Association leaders went on a five week, 30-county, "Fund Our Futures" bus tour. That tour culminated in a rally at the statehouse TODAY!

"The tour was about spreading the Fund Our Future message and about connecting — with parents, students, teachers and school staff, community activists, faith leaders and anyone concerned about public education." <https://feaweb.org/news/news/the-fund-our-future-bus-tour-5-weeks-3580-miles-and-55000-people/>

Find out more about the rally here: <https://feaweb.org/issues-action/january13/>

# VALLEY NEWS

(<https://www.vnews.com>)

News > Education (/News/Education/)

## Democrat-led committee rejects \$46M federal grant for NH charter schools



Students in the Art class at the Pace Career Academy Charter School in Pembroke on Tuesday, December 11, 2019.

By [ETHAN DeWITT \(/byline?byline=By ETHAN DeWITT\)](#)

Concord Monitor

Published: 12/13/2019 10:25:35 PM

Modified: 12/13/2019 10:25:20 PM

CONCORD — Democrats voted to reject the first installment of a \$46 million, five-year federal grant to expand New Hampshire charter schools Friday, arguing the growth would strain the state's educational system.

In a 7-3, party-line vote, the state's Fiscal Committee killed a motion to accept \$10.1 million of the \$46 million grant.

The move upended the grant award, first announced in August by Gov. Chris Sununu. It was unclear Friday whether the U.S. Department of Education would freeze the rest of the grant amount, allowing it to be recovered at a later date, or if the money would be lost to the state.

Democrats said the decision was a prudent one. The additional charter schools would overextend the state's resources by requiring increased state investments for each school — and would stretch thin dollars for existing schools, they argued.

The vote set off disappointment among charter school advocates and condemnation from the governor.

"I am sickened by today's vote," Sununu said, "and the Democrats must explain to every single student why they rejected an unprecedented \$46 million grant for public schools."

The money was intended to nearly double New Hampshire's charter schools, from 28 currently to 55. Construction of new schools would occur over five years, with a maximum \$1.5 million per charter, the Department of Education said.

Lawmakers said that could mean tens of millions in additional costs to the state over 10 years, pointing to an analysis by the nonprofit group Reaching Higher New Hampshire. Department of Education Commissioner Frank Edelblut disputed those estimates.

Friday's Fiscal Committee session — a usually ho-hum monthly affair attended by department heads and accounting staff — became a spectacle.

Several charter schools brought entire classes to the hearing room to watch the vote; dozens of students from elementary age to high schoolers crammed shoulder-to-shoulder with policy analysts and reporters. A significant number of attendees spilled into the corridor, craning to watch the back-and-forth through open doors.

At the center sat the congenial Edelblut, taking in questions and criticism with a smile.

Members of the Fiscal Committee had already sent a trove of 44 written questions to the Education Department, which had applied for the grant; the Department had responded in a 33-page brief issued Tuesday.

On Friday, Democrats said they weren't satisfied.

The estimates of how much the state might spend were too high to justify, said Concord Sen. Dan Feltes.

He cited the Reaching Higher Ed analysis, which found that the state could incur \$57 million to \$104 million in costs over a decade, depending on how much it expanded.

"At a minimum, there's going to be tens of millions of dollars of New Hampshire taxpayer money being committed," said Feltes, who is running for governor. "That's not fiscally responsible."

Other critics on the committee pointed to figures suggesting that existing charter school enrollments have not even hit capacity. Figures from the Department of Education indicated that the 28 schools had 1,252 "open seats" in the 2018 to 2019 school year, which Democrats cited as evidence that expansion was unnecessary.

And some Democrats highlighted a projected 28% drop in enrollment across New Hampshire schools, an indication, they said, that the state should shore up existing schools instead of building new ones.

Edelblut took issue with each of the concerns. He dismissed the Reaching Higher Ed analysis as flawed and incomplete, contending that it only factored some state funding for traditional public schools and that the actual spending increases could be less.

The commissioner disputed the significance of the open seats. Many charter schools are approved for a certain enrollment size but don't have the structural capacity to meet that number, Edelblut argued.

He offered a different interpretation of the meaning of the state's falling enrollment. Shrinking class sizes means the state needs to be more innovative with alternative educational paths, Edelblut said — which he said demands more charter schools.

And he pushed back at what he said was an attempt by Democrats to classify the public charter school system in a different category than traditional public schools.

"We have to move beyond this, you know, the idea that somehow there are two systems," he said. "What we have is we have one system that's educating our kids, our kids are all different, and we need different educational opportunities for that."

In an interview after the vote, Edelblut said he is unsure what happens next. The action technically only ends the first tranche of grant money, but because the full \$46 million allotment was contingent on a specific development plan, it is unclear whether the U.S. Department of Education would flush the rest of the funding.

State education officials are planning to seek the advice of their Washington counterparts in the coming days, Edelblut said.

For a swath of attendees, the outcome was disheartening. Shuffling out of the room in groups and lines, charter school students and their teachers said the decision highlighted the limits to the acceptance of charter schools in the state.

"I'm kind of disappointed," said Skye Blanco, a Manchester junior attending Kreiva Academy. "I felt like they all went in there with their mindsets."

Blanco, who praised her school's project-based learning structure, argued that opponents to the funding needed to spend more time in charter schools.

"I just feel like there was not really an understanding of what exactly we do, and the benefits that we have," she said.

Tal Bayer, the head of school of Kreiva Academy, agreed.

"I believe a rising tide lifts all ships," he said pointing to the funding. "People are looking at it as a zero-sum game, and that's not the case. There's just, I don't understand, I don't know if it's an older mindset."

Republicans on the panel were less reserved about their thoughts on the decision.

"This is a political motion," said Rep. Ken Weyler, a conservative fixture of the Fiscal Committee. "You have fulfilled your duties to the teachers union. Not to the citizens of New Hampshire."

Democrats objected to that characterization, accusing Weyler of a breach of decorum. And they insisted that the move was the best one to preserve the charter schools already in operation — as well as the state's traditional public schools.

# TAKE ON TALLAHASSEE

A RALLY FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

**MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2020**

**1:30 PM — MARCH FROM CIVIC CENTER TO FLORIDA'S OLD CAPITOL**

Florida's parents, educators and communities are building a movement for the colleges and schools students deserve. **Join us!**

Visit [www.feaweb.org/january13](http://www.feaweb.org/january13) to learn more and make a commitment to attend!

FLORIDA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION | [WWW.FEAWEB.ORG](http://WWW.FEAWEB.ORG) | 850-201-2800

Thousands of public education stakeholders and supporters will "Take on Tallahassee" on January 13 — the eve of the 2020 legislative session.

Florida's parents, educators and community supporters will carry their message straight to lawmakers' doorstep, rallying in front of the Old Capitol to demand improved funding for students and schools, fair pay for all education employees, and an end to the misguided policies that have led to the over-testing of students and the loss of local control in our districts.

## January 13 Schedule:

- **9:00 am to 1:00 pm** — Buses arriving from across the state at the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center (505 W. Pensacola St.).
- **12:30 pm** — Feeder marches begin from FAMU and FSU
- **1:30 pm** — March from Civic Center to Florida's Old Capitol
- **2:00 to 4:00 pm** — Take On Tallahassee Rally at Florida's Old Capitol (400 S. Monroe St.)
- **10:30 am to 4:30 pm** — Trolleys will shuttle between the Civic Center and the Capitol for those needing assistance

## January 13 Logistics:

- For those driving, approximately 350 free car parking spots will be available immediately south and west of the Civic Center, see map at right (Click map to enlarge; or download map as PDF [427 K]).
- Additional parking guides resources:
  - City of Tallahassee parking info
  - Downtown Tallahassee parking guides
- Trolleys will shuttle between the Civic Center and the Capitol for those needing assistance (10:30 am to 4:30 pm)





**YES! I'll be there on  
January 13, 2020!**

\*First Name

\*Last Name

\*you@example.com

\*ZIP code

Cell Phone

I am a...

I live in...

I am a member of FEA:

Please send me FEA action alerts:

I understand and consent to FEA's [Privacy Policy](#).

**I'LL BE THERE!**





## **January 13 Scheduled Speakers:**

*(In alphabetical order)*

- **Damaris Allen**, president Hillsborough County PTS/PTSA
- **Angelina Galesi-Schmitt**, teacher in Palm Beach County
- **Lily Eskelsen Garcia**, president of National Education Association
- **Adela Ghadimi**, graduate student at Florida State University and president of the FSU chapter of Graduate Assistants United
- **Reverend Al Golden**, Pastors for Florida Children
- **Fedrick Ingram**, president of Florida Education Association
- **Zenani Johnson**, a student at the University of West Florida and president of its Florida Student Association
- **Johanna Lopez**, Orange County School Board member and a teacher
- **Suzie Martin**, teacher and chair of the FEA Republican Cadre
- **Karen Morian**, president of the United Faculty of Florida and a state college professor
- **Michael Mulgrew**, president of New York City's United Federation of Teachers
- **Jesse Sharkey**, president of Chicago Teachers Union
- **Reverend Al Sharpton**, founder and president of National Action Network
- **Sophia Torres**, senior at Hernando High School and student member
- **Randi Weingarten**, president of American Federation of Teachers
- **Jarius Williams**, Florida A&M University student, and president of Student FEA

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January 13, 2020: Take On Tallahassee



## What do Florida's kids deserve?

- Experienced, qualified teachers in every classroom.
- Class sizes small enough for one-on-one attention.
- Support, tools and time to learn.
- Safe schools and inviting classrooms.
- Well rounded curriculum that includes art, music and PE.

## That's how taxpayer funds should be spent. But...

- Across our state there is a growing teacher shortage and it is hurting Florida's students.
- Thousands of children do not have a qualified teacher in front of their classroom.
- Our schools are not getting the funding they need for repairs.
- Florida's class sizes are growing.
- Students are spending too much time taking high-stakes tests.
- And parents are worried about their children's safety.

## Florida's students and families deserve better.

Together we can build a better future for Florida's children. Please sign up with the form above if you will commit to join your FEA colleagues all over the state to engage in mass action on January 13<sup>th</sup>.

## It's time politicians started listening to the people.

It's time for us to make our voices heard. Let's take on the Tallahassee politicians.

# TAKE ON TALLAHASSEE

A Rally for Public Education | January 13, 2020

# Proposal

## Western Region Council Budget

	2018-2019		2018-2019		2019-2020		2019-2020		2020-2021		2020-2021	
	Budgeted	Spent	Remaining		Budgeted	Spent	Remaining		Budgeted	Spent	Remaining	
<b>Meetings</b>												
Venue					\$ -		\$ -					
Food		\$ 1,821.20			\$ 2,900.00		\$ 2,900.00					
Misc/Supplies		\$ 25.00			\$ -		\$ -					
<b>Membership</b>												
Supplies		\$ 216.91			\$ 225.00		\$ 225.00					
<b>Training</b>												
Presenter					\$ -		\$ -					
Food					\$ -		\$ -					
Mileage					\$ -		\$ -					
<b>Other</b>												
Golf Fundraiser		\$ 250.00			\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00					
Unbudgeted					\$ 625.00		\$ 625.00					
<b>Total</b>	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,313.11	\$ 1,686.89		\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	